


# JOSHUA'S Resolution

*Russell Test. In his own hand*  
Serve the Lord.

CONTAINING,

The *Resolution* of every True Christian,  
fully and wholly to Cleave unto the Lord,  
and to Dedicate himself to the Lord and  
his Service.

Wherein is Shewed,  
What the *Resolution* of a Christian is. And  
the Reasons of the Necessity of this *Reso-  
lution* With a *Word of Exhortation* both  
to Private, and Family Worship.

 To which is Added,  
A Prayer for a Family.

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*MUSE* By Robert Russell in Suffex.

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Jer 10. 25. Pour out thy Fury upon the Heathen that know thee not,  
and upon the Family that call not upon thy Name.

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Licensed according to Order.

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## Joshua's Resolution, &c.

Joshua 24. part of vers. 15. *But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

**T**hese are the words of Joshua to the Tribes of Israel; for having, in this chapter, declared unto them, the many benefits which God, of his mercy hath bestowed on them, as particular in vers. 15. in that he hath given them a Land they laboured not for; and Cities which they built not; and Vineyards, and Oliveyards to eat of, which they planted not. Joshua having thus laid before their eyes God's benefits; he in vers. 14. Exhorts them, to offer unto God a thankful and obedient heart, for those benefits which he hath bestowed upon them. Now therefore, fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: And put away the gods which your Fathers served, & serve ye the Lord. And so I shall immediately upon the Words of the Text, wherein we have these two things considerable.

First, The freedom which Joshua seems to give the Tribes of Israel, in case they refuse to serve the Lord, that they should chuse who they will serve.

Secondly, His Resolution concerning himself and his family: As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

Now in this small Book I shall joyn these two together into this one Observation: that is, *How ever the Men of this world live, what ever they do, what ways soever they follow; a Child of God is*

fully bent, and resolved to cleave to the Lord, & to take care that his family, and all under his charge, walk in the ways of Holyness and Piety.

Now for my further handling of this Subject, I shall proceed after this manner.

First, I shall shew you what the Resolution of a Christian is. Secondly, the Reasons of this Resolution. And lastly, the Application.

First, to shew you what the Resolution of a Christian is. First, it is a full and firm Resolution. Secondly, it is a present resolution. Thirdly, it is a settle and deliberate resolution. First, the resolution of a Christian is, a full and firm resolution, the men of this world they naturally chuse Sin, Death and Hell, they chuse death and damnation, before life and salvation, they resolutely run on in the ways of Lurey, Wantonness, Drinking, Gaming, and all manner of lewd and idle Practices, and tho' they are told and told again, both by the Messengers of Gods word, and their godly friends, whether these ungodly ways will lead them, yet they will run on still, and take their own course, as if they were in love with their own ruin and destruction. But a true Christian, after all his Reproves and Admonitions, when he finds that they will not be reclaimed, he as it were bids them take their course, and chuse whom they will serve, as Joshua did the people of Israel. But for his part, he resolved with full bent and purpose of heart, to give himself up to the Lord, and chuse him for his portion, and to yield up himself soul and body as instruments for his service. Now the resolution of a Christian

is not a sick bed promise, but a full bent and purpose of heart; to lead a new life, there are many that fairly promise, but few resolve, every weak promise is not a full resolution. Alas! how many are there who under a sharp fit of sickness, or under some judgment ready to befall them, they will promise fair what a new Creature they will become, what new lives they will lead, how holy and how purely they will live, but if it please God to spare them, & give them a time of respite, then how soon are these vows and promises forgot, thus the Children of Israel, how fairly did they promise, Deut. 5. 27. All that the Lord our God shall speak, we will hear and do. But tho' they had a tongue to promise, yet they had no heart to perform, as you may see ver. 29. O that then such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep my commandments, that it may be well with them. But as for a sincere returning sinner, he not only promises, but resolves to yield up himself body and soul to be the Lord's, yea, the whole frame of his heart is bent that way, as an unconverted wicked sinner goes on in sin with a full purpose of heart, even so a returning sinner, who is a coming to Jesus Christ, serves him with full Purpose, and resolution of heart. And as a wicked resolute sinner, neither Mercies nor Judgments, neither Reproofs nor Admonitions, neither Persuading, nor Intreating by Ministers nor Friends, will stop him in his sinful Course, so on the other side, a returning sinner, that is resolved for Christ and Holiness, will not be drawn back, neither by promises nor threatenings, neither by scowls nor frowns, let



let his sinful Companions intice him by never so many arguments, he will not consent, but he is full here and resolved for Heaven and Happiness, whatever it cost him, and therefore seeing the weakness of his own flesh, and his natural inclination to be overcome by the least temptation, therefore he plys the throne of Grace, and there he pours out earnest prayers and supplications for the assistance of Divine grace to strengthen him in the inner man, he dares not trust to his own strength, he considers how soon Peter was overcome, notwithstanding his Resolution to stand saying, If I should dye with thee I will not deny thee, and yet because he was too confident of his own strength it pleased God so; his trial to leave him to himself, how soon he denyed and forsooke his Lord and Saviour, he began to curse and swear that he knew him not, Mat. 26. Now I say a returning sinner, considering this, he dares not resolve in his own strength, but Labours and toilers in the use of all means to get strength from Heaven, and in the strength of Christ, he strives and labours to go on towards the Heavenly mark he aims at, he rests not in any certain attainments, but truly resolves by the help of Divine Grace towards the mortification of the whole body of sin and for the attainment of Grace and Holiness unto perfection.

And after he has done his best, yet still he feels Lust to be strong in him and grace weak, therefore he is more and more outrageous against his natural inclinations, and his earnest desire, and endeavours to be more and more humble, more patient, more meek,

weak, more lowly, and more heavenly. let the Devil tempt him with Riches, Honour, Long-life, and all Earthly Happiness on condition, that he turn back again into the ways of sin, yet he will not yield, but resist him with all his might and strength, nay, though all the Powers of Hell seek their utmost endeavours to draw him back, though the Flesh incite, and the wicked World use all means to discourage him, yet, in spite of them all, he is resolved to go on in his Holy Course, for neither Death, nor Life, nor Principallities, nor Powers, nor Height, nor Depth, nor any Creature, is able to separate him from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord, Rom. 8. Thus a sincere returning Sinner is fully bent and resolved to give himself up Body and Soul to the Lord. And the whole frame and bent of his heart is towards Grace and Holiness. That is the first thing Considerable, that a Christians Resolution, is a full Resolution.

Secondly, It is a present Resolution, he is not for delays and put-offs, but resolves presently to turn. A Man, you know, that is fully bent and resolved to do a thing, his earnest desire is to be about it, that it may be done, he is not for putting it off from one time to another, as if he did not care whether it were done or no. Even so a Christian that is fully bent and resolved after Grace and Holiness, he longs and desires for the attainment of his Holy Ends, the whole frame of his heart is set that way, and therefore he presently sets about the Work without delay. Indeed a hypocrite has ma-

purposes and resolutions to Repent, and become a New Creature, but he delays and puts off from one time to another, being loath, for the present, to part with Sweet Sin, with his Beloved Lust, which shews that his resolution is not a firm and settle resolution, his purposes are unsound and hypocritical. There was one, Luke 9. 61. who made a kind of a resolution to follow Christ, but this resolution was not for the present, he begged liberty to go once more to his sinful Companions, and take his leave of them: Lord, saith he, I will follow thee, but let me first go and bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. This shews that his purpose and resolution was not sincere, he made a kind of a resolution to follow Christ. But here lies the case, there was not a thorough change wrought in him, he had not rooted out his Beloved Sin, the frame and bent of his heart was more towards the following of his Lust, than it was to follow Christ, therefore, in setting his hand to the plow, by making a resolution to follow Christ, and yet looking back with pleasure and delight upon his old sinful course of life, he was not fit for the Kingdom of Heaven, as our Saviour tells him, Mat. 23. 32. Lord, saith he, I will follow thee, but let me first go and bid them farewell which are at home at my house. Thus a Wicked Man, when he is intreated and persuaded by a Minister of God's Word, or by any of his Holy Relations, to Repent and forsake his Evil Practices, and to lead a New Life,

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Life, he perhaps under these Godly Admonitions, makes fair promises, and has some Purposes and Resolutions to Repent, and become a new Creature, and yet, notwithstanding these purposes and resolutions, he has many delays and put offs, because his heart remains still wedded to his Lust, the Drunkard he promises that he will return and follow Christ, but he takes leave first to go once more to the Ale-house, and take leave of his Drunken Companions, and take one merry Cup more with them, and then he will come and follow Christ. He has friends at home at his House, and he must first go and take his leave of them, and make one merry meeting more among them, and enjoy a little more of their Jovial Company, and then he will follow Christ. The Covetous he must have leave first to peruse after a little more of this worlds Goods, and then he will follow Christ. The Glutinous he must have leave first to partake a little more of the Sweet of Sin, he must enjoy a little more of his Beloved Pleasure, he must doun with one Sweet Whorel more, and then he will follow Christ. Thus Sin is so sweet unto a dicked Man, the World and the Flesh is so bewitching, that notwithstanding a Sinners fair promises and purposes to Repent and turn to God, that by these he is hindered of putting any thing into practice, but procrastinates and puts off from one time to another, until perhaps there is at an end, before he has done any thing in order to his Eternal Salvation.

But a Christian that is fully and firmly resolved to dedicate himself to the Lord and his Service, so  
that

that the whole frame of his heart is bent that way, he is so far from delaying, and putting off from one time to another, that he is even restless, and cannot find no contentment in any thing he enjoys, until he has got an interest in Christ, until he has got some assurance of the love of God, and the pardon of his Sins, it grieves him to the very heart, to think that he should be so wild and foolish, as to waste so much of his precious time as he has done, in fleshly lust, in abusing of God's Mercy & Goodness, and grieving his Spirit, in that he has made a good and gracious God wait upon him so many years, whilst he continued to run on in a Course of Rebellion against him. And therefore he now resolves, through the grace of God assisting him from the time forward, to bid an everlasting farewell to his beloved sin, he now fully resolves to continue no longer in his sinful course of life, he is ready to cry out with St. Augustin: How long shall I say to morrow to morrow, why shall not this day be the day of my Conversion. He therefore without delay sets about the Work of Conversion, he now begins to beg labour and strive to work out his Salvation. Thus a Christians Resolution is a Present Resolution.

Thirdly, and lastly, a Christians resolution is a Settle and Deliberate Resolution.

He doth not, as many do, take up a sudden and inconsiderate resolution, to follow Christ. But he diligently considers, first, what it may cost him to be a thro' Christian; the dearth of his beloved Sin



Life, he perhaps under these Godly Admonitions, makes fair promises, and has some Purposes and Resolutions to Repent, and become a new Creature, and yet, notwithstanding these purposes and resolutions, he has many delays and put offs, because his heart remains still wedded to his Lust, the Drunkard he promises that he will return and follow Christ, but he takes leave first to go once more to the Ale-house, and take leave of his Drunken Companions, and take one merry Cup more with them, and then he will come and follow Christ. He has friends at home at his house, and he must first go and take his leave of them, and make one merry meeting more among them, and enjoy a little more of their Jovial Company, and then he will follow Christ. The Covetous he must have leave first to pursue after a little more of this worlds Goods, and then he will follow Christ. The Glutinous he must have leave first to partake a little more of the Sweet of Sin, he must enjoy a little more of his Beloved Pleasure, he must drowse with one Sweet Nap more, and then he will follow Christ. Thus Sin is so sweet unto a debauched Man, the World and the Flesh is so bewitching, that notwithstanding a Sinners fair promises and purposes to Repent and turn to God, that by these he is hindered of putting any thing into practice, but procrastinates and puts off from one time to another, until perhaps there is at an end, before he has done any thing in order to his Eternal Salvation.

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that the whole frame of his heart is bent that way, he is so far from delaying, and putting off from one time to another, that he is even restless, and can find no contentment in any thing he enjoys, until he has got an interest in Christ, until he has got some assurance of the love of God, and the pardon of his Sins, it grieves him to the very heart, to think that he should be so wild and foolish, as to waste so much of his precious time as he has done, in fleshly lust, in abusing of God's Mercy & Goodness, and grieving his Spirit, in that he has made a good and gracious God wait upon him so many years, whilst he continued to run on in a **Course** of Rebellion against him. And therefore he now resolves, through the grace of God assisting him from the time forward, to bid an everlasting farewell to his beloved sin, he now fully resolves to continue no longer in his sinful course of life, he is ready to cry out with St. Augustin: How long shall I say to morrow to morrow, why shall not this day be the day of my Conversion. He therefore without delay sets about the Work of Conversion, he now begins to beg labour and strive to work out his Salvation. Thus a Christians Resolution is a **Prudent Resolution**.

Thirdly, and lastly, a Christians resolution is a **Settle and Deliberate Resolution**.

He doth not, as many do, take up a sudden and inconsiderate resolution, to follow Christ. But he diligently considers, first, what it may cost him to be a true Christian; the dearth of his beloved Sin

that he knows it must cost him, he knows he must part with every sin; even with his most flesh-pleasing sin for Christ, or else he can't be no true Christian. But he considers that it may cost him the loss of his Credit and God-name, the loss of his liberty, nay the loss of his life. Now a Penitent Sinner considers diligently of all these things before he enters upon his Christian course, lest after he has gone far with Christ, Persecution comes, and he Apostatize and falls away, and so his latter end be worse than is beginning. What man, saith our Saviour, intending to build a Tower, setteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it, lest happily after he has laid the Foundation and is not able to finish it, all that behold him begin to mock him, Luk. 14.28.29. So whosoever, saith he, forsaketh not all that he hath cannot be my Disciples, vers. 33. Many have gone far with Christ. So far their interest lay with the interest of Christ, but when the interest of Christ, and their own Interest cross, then they have Apostatized and fell away. But on the contrary, a wise Christian, before he enters upon a new Life, he first sets down and counts the cost, he considers upon Peter, how sadly he fell when Christ had left him unto himself, notwithstanding his strong Resolution saying, If all should deny thee yet will not I, therefore he dares not purpose and resolve in his own strength, for he knows himself to be very weak, and cannot make one step towards Heaven without Divine Assistance, therefore he is night and day in earnest prayer to God for strength from Heaven, and so

in the strength of Christ he is resolved to take him  
for better and for worse, he is resolved to run all ha-  
zards with him, he is resolved to venture all for  
him, to venture the loss of a good name, the loss of  
liberty, and the loss of life it self, as he expects to  
Reign with Christ, so he resolves to clothe him with  
all his Offices, as a Prophet to instruct him, as a  
King to Reign over him, and Rule in him, as a Sa-  
viour to save him from sin as well as from punish-  
ment, he is resolved to off with his Right hand sins,  
and out with his Right Eye sins, he is resolved to  
spare no sin, but to strike against it, watch against  
it, and fight against it with all his might. He is  
resolved to take Christ as he is offered upon self de-  
nying terms, he is resolved to give up himself body  
and soul to Christ to walk with him, to suffer with  
him, and to dye with him, if he be called thereunto,  
he is resolved to forsake all for him that stands in com-  
petition with him, and so to live by faith, and rest fully  
and wholly upon his word and promise for Eternal  
Salvation, he is resolved to follow Christ thorow all  
difficulties and dangers, thorow sufferings and per-  
secutions thorow life and death, until he comes to  
Reign with Christ in Glory.

Thus have I done with the first thing considera-  
ble, what the Resolution of a Christian is, I must be  
very brief in what follows.

Secondly, the reason of the necessity of this Reso-  
lution. Now for a Christian to make a feeble Arm  
Resolution is very necessary.

First, Because that until a man sets a firm and

full Resolution to turn to God. He is in a ready way to fall by every temptation, he is apt to put off and delay his repentance from time to time, he is still liable to give himself more and more liberty to all kind of Wickedness, to let the Bridle loose to his Lust; nay, until a man comes unto a full and settled resolution, he lyes in the ready road to open Profane s, and to the Neglect of God and Holy Duties. And when he performs Duties, it is with such Coldness and Formality, as if he cared not whether he performed them or no. But when a man comes to a resolved Point, when the whole frame and bent of his heart is set toward Christ and Holyness, then there will appear earnest endeavors after the Thing resolved upon, when once a Sinner comes to be fully resolved, then he delays no longer, but immediately sets about the Work of Conversion, then he is upon his Watch, and puts on the whole Armor of God, and strike and fight against Sin and Spiritual Wickedness. This was the Resolution of Job, Job 31. 1. I made a Covenant with mine Eyes, why then should I think upon a Maid, as if he had said, I have Resolved and made a Covenant with my self, as much as in me lyes, to avoid all temptation to sin, why then should I run my self into temptation. This also was the Resolution of David, Psalm 39. 1. I said I will take heed to my ways that I sin not with my tongue, I will keep my mouth with a Bridle. And this is the Resolution of every true Christian, a settled, firm and sincere Resolution is a great Enemy to Sin and Satan.

Secondly

Secondly, This Settle and firm Resolution is necessary to Repentance, because it is the first step to Repentance. A man may do many things in order to a work of Conversion, yet if he have not a settle and firm Resolution to turn to God, he were as good do nothing. But when once a man comes to set up a Settle, firm, and Sincere hearty Resolution, to cleave fully and wholly to the Lord, and to resign up all the faculties of his soul to him, then the work is more than half done. All the other Duties of Christianity will seem easy and pleasant. David he resolved and swore, and therefore he would perform: I have sworn, saith he, and therefore will perform, that I will keep thy Statutes, Psalm 119. 106.

Thus much for the Doctrinal Part, I shall be very short in the Application.

There is but one Use that I shall make of this point, and that shall be a Use of Exhortation. It is so, that whatevcr the People of Israel did, Joshua was resolved that he and his House will serve the Lord; why, Beloved Friends, let me Exhort you, nay let me intreat you all to enter upon a full, firm, present, and settle deliberate Resolution, that you and your Family will serve the Lord. In the first place make a firm resolution to give up your own selves to the Lord and his service. let the Men of this World do what they please, if they will not be reformed let them take their Course, if they are so in love with Hell and Damnation. so that they will run head-long thither, let them take their course.

By



But my Dear Friends, into whose hands this little Book shall come, do you sincerely resolve to give up your selves to the Lord, and his service, if others will be for Hell, do you resolve to be for Heaven, whatever it cost you, resolve to cleave close to the Lord, in opposition to the Malice of the Devil, the Inticements of the Flesh, and the Temptations of this Wicked World. If wicked Men should intice and seek to draw you into Sin with them, do not yield, but rather answer them as Joseph did his Mistress, How can I do this great Wickedness and sin against God, Gen. 39. 9. If at any time any of your old sinful Companions do intice, persuade, and intrude you to go with them to Drinking, Gaming or any other Vile Exercise, resolve with your selves, never to yield to none of their persuading Arguments, labour to obey the Counsel of Solomon, Prov. — My Son, if sinners intice thee consent thou not Friends, be Exhorted now to make a firm and strong resolution against all difficulties and dangers, and oppositions, dedicate your selves soul and body to the Lord, let others choose what they will, do you choose the Lord for your Portion, in all his Personal Relations, and in all his Essential Perfections, resolve to take him as a holy God, as a sin-bearing God, and labour to be holy, even as he is holy, 1 Pet. 1. 16. And resolve to choose the Laws of Christ as your rule and pattern, I have, saith David, stuck to thy testimonies, I have inclined my heart unto thy Statutes always,



even to the end, psalm 119. 31. **Resolve to take**  
**Christ in all his Offices, in all his Inconveni-**  
**ences, resolve to run all hazards with him, be**  
**Exhorted now wit<sup>h</sup> out delay, to bid an Everla-**  
**sting farewell to all your sins and from hence-**  
**forth make a firm Covenant with the Body and**  
**Soul to be his, saying, Lord I do here lament**  
**and am heartily grieved that I have spent so much**  
**of my time in Rebellion against thee, and in cha-**  
**sing the ways of sin; but I do here from this time**  
**forward, firmly resolve to bid an utter defiance to**  
**all sin, and through thy grace enabling me, now**  
**Covenant with thee to bethine, and to forsake all**  
**that is near and dear unto me in this world for thy**  
**sake, I am resolved never more to yield my self a**  
**Servant to Sin and Satan but to watch against all**  
**Temptation. whether of prosperity or adversity, but**  
**I do resolve to take thee for my Portion and hap-**  
**piness, promising and vowing to serve thee in Ho-**  
**liness and Righteousness all the days of my Life,**  
**and I do here fully resolve to choose Jesus Christ as**  
**the way to the Father, and to take my Lot with**  
**him, and to run all hazards with him, resting upon**  
**him alone, in his way for Salvation.**

**Secondly, Resolve not only to give up your**  
**selves to the Lord, but resolve to use your utmost en-**  
**deavours, that all under your charge may likewise**  
**serve the Lord, as Joshua here did, not only resolve**  
**to serve the Lord himself, but he resolved both he and**  
**his house should serve the Lord, to my Friends, you**  
**that are householders and Governours of families,**  
**let me exhort you to labour to set up the worship of**

God in your Families, though you cannot inspire  
Grace into your Children and Servants, yet you  
may Labour to convince them of their Sin and Mi-  
tery by Nature, you may Reprober them, and In-  
strug and teach them in the principles of Religion,  
and joyne with them in Prayer and holy Exercises.  
It is dreadful to consider, that there should be so  
many thousand Families in the world that are Un-  
godly and Profane Families, many Governours of  
Families can take care that their Servants rise ear-  
ly in the morning, and go about their work, they  
can take care that they be diligent about their Bu-  
siness, but they take no care about the concern of  
their souls, they can take notice how they do their  
work, and are ready to be outrageous with them for  
every fault, but yet can hear them curse and swear,  
and see them Profane the Lord's day, and see them  
live loose and profane Lives, and live in open Re-  
bellion against the Lord, and yet take little or no no-  
tice of all this, they scarce ever call upon their Ser-  
vants to Read nor Read themselves unto them, nor  
yet do they Pray with them, except it be now and  
then upon a Lords day. For my part, I have been  
in many families but I never met but with here and  
there one, where the worship of God, and Religious  
Exercises hath been set up among them, I may  
speak it with shame enough. Most families regard  
their Servants no better than they do, their very  
best they mind them no otherwise than to provide  
for them Meat and Drink and Wages, and to see  
that they do their work, but never regard what be-  
comes of their poor immortal souls. Truly Friends,

I am apt to think that there being such a multitude of Profane Irreligious families among us in England, that it is a forerunner of some sad judgment approaching, for if the Scripture be the true Word of God, so indeed we must expect some sad Calamity to befall us e're long, if there be not a speedy Reformation in houses and families, for what a threatening there lies in the word of God against such, Jer. 10. 25. That the Lord will pour out his fury upon the Heathen that know him not, and upon the Nations that call not upon his Name. The Heathen here is meant all Ungodly Irreligious families. Let us, the People of this Land, have a care that this Sentence be not pronounced against us, many of late have complained of the badness of the Times, that Trading is dead, Money is scarce and every thing is dear. But friends let there but be a thought of Reformation in houses and families, and then you will as soon see as peaceable and happy Times as ever was known since England has been Inhabited. But if People will still remain to be Irreligious and Profane in their families, I am afraid that some sadder Judgment will befall us than ever yet we have seen, how can we expect deliverance from our Enemies and happy times, whilst the worship of God is so much neglected and family Duties never regarded.

To Conclude, you that are Parents, Masters, and Householders, if ever you desire your own Good, and a blessing upon your families and Undertakings, and the good of this Nation, be intreated now to suffer the word of Exhortation, be exhorted

now no longer to neglect the Worship & Service of God in your families, but as often as you see your servants and Children in against God reprove them where you see them ignorant instruct them. Let me Counsel you to do this at a convenient opportunity, to Catechise your Children and Servants, at least once every Week, and instruct them in the Principles of Religion every Lords day in the morning call them up before then you do on other days, and as soon as they have done their necessary business, before you go with them to the publick worship of God read to them some part of Gods word, and then give them some private instruction concerning what they have read, and call upon them to read some of Gods word, and then join with them in Prayer, and after Publick Worship, call every one of them to an Account concerning the sermon they heard, and rub up their Memories with it and rebuke them as much as you can with these good Instructions which the Preacher has delivered out of the word of God, and then instruct them in the principles of Religion. And conclude the Evening of the Lords day in reading godly Conferences, and singing of Psalms and Prayer. And every morning in the Week call your children and servants together, and pray with them, before they and you go about the works of your Calling. And let godly conference and prayer, be every Evenings Exercise before you go to Rest, and make a set, firm and strong Resolution as Joshua did here, that let others chuse whom they will serve, let every one of you make this Resolution, saying :

As for me and my House we will Serve the Lord.

Now for your Help, I will set you a Short form of Prayer for a Family.

### A Short Prayer for a Family.

**O** Most gracious, most glorious, and ever blessed Lord God, who art perfect in Holynesse, and infinite in all thy perfections, look down from Heaven, we beseech thee, with an eye of pity and compassion upon thine unworthy Servants, sinful dust and ashes, who desires at this time, with all Reverence and Humility, at this time to address our selves unto thee, to offer up unto thee our Vows and requests in thy Sons Name. But Lord, we do humbly acknowledge and confess, that our transgressions are so many, and so grievous, that we are ashamed to lift up our eyes to Heaven, or to take thy holy Name into our polluted lips, for Lord we confess that we are conceived and born in Sin, we brought into this world a stock of Original Corruption, which we have derived from our first Parents, actual transgression, and if that were not enough to make us miserable for ever, we have gone on all our lives in a course of Actual Rebellion against thee, we are naturally prone to all manner of Evil, but we are backward and averse to any thing that is good so that we are born children of wrath, and heirs of Hell and Damnation, and yet if we are not miserable enough by Nature, we have done what in us



lues to make our selves more miserable. Lord we  
 confesse as we have grown in years, so we have en-  
 creased in all manner of sin and ungodliness, so that  
 we have abused thy goodness, which should have led  
 us to Repentance, we have run wilfully into Sin,  
 against the light of our knowledge, against the con-  
 tritions of our own conscience, we have grieved thy  
 Spirit, wearied thy Patience, and turned a deaf  
 ear to thy heavenly calls, and slighted thy offers of  
 Grace and Mercy through Jesus Christ. Oh vile  
 wretches that we are, we have lived as if thou didst  
 send us into this world for nothing but to gratifie  
 the flesh, and please our Sensual Appetites, but we  
 have forgot those hie and holy ends which thou hast  
 made us for, which is to live to thy praise and glory,  
 how often hast thou stood knocking at the door of our  
 hard hearts for entrance, but we have barred them  
 up against thee by Impenitency and Unbelief. If  
 thou Lord shouldst deal with us according to our de-  
 serts, what can we expect at thy hands but wrath  
 and our Everlasting Condemnation, but Lord, as  
 thou hast shew of thine unspeakable love toward man-  
 kind, send thy dear Son into the world, to be a pro-  
 pitiation for our sins, and by his sufferings and death  
 to take away the sins of the world, We humbly  
 pray thee for his sake, and for that bitter death and  
 bloody passions sake, which we believe that he hath  
 suffered for us, that thou wouldst pardon and forgive  
 us all our sins, blot them, we beseech thee, out of  
 the book of thy Remembrance, nall them to his cross  
 and bury them in his grave, that they may never rise  
 up against us, to shame & confound us in this world.



o; to condemn us together in the **Mo.** to come, & to  
 this end, **Lord**, we humbly pray thee that thou would  
 give us a true & lively faith in his merits, & **Lord** let  
 it not be a dead & fruitless faith, but let it be a lively  
 and active faith that we may bring forth the fruits  
 of it in our lives and conversations, let us no longer  
 live by sense, but let us live by faith in the Son of  
 God, **O** let this be an Agitation of our condemna-  
 tion, that we have had a Saviour offered us, but we  
 have wilfully rejected him; but grant **Lord** that we  
 may heartily and thankfully accept of that Redemp-  
 tion which he has purchased for us, grant that we  
 may Receive and Embrace him upon such terms as  
 he is offered to us in the Gospel. **O** let Christ be  
 most precious in our eyes, yea more precious than  
 thousands of Gold and Silver, and grant that we may  
 esteem all the Riches, and all the Profits of this world  
 to be but as dross and dung in comparison of Christ,  
 for what shall it profit us if we should gain all the Ri-  
 ches and all the pleasures of this world, & at last lose  
 Christ and our Immortal Souls, and how miserable  
 will our condition be if we should dye in a Christs  
 state, **Lord** we pray thee Unite us to Christ by faith  
 that we may be one with Christ, and Christ with us,  
 and wean our hearts, we beseech thee, from the love  
 of all earthly things, and continually live and con-  
 verse with thee above, while we walk and act here  
 upon Earth, and **Lord** we humbly beg of thee that  
 thou wouldest work in us a godly sorrow for all our sin-  
 past, **O** heartily Repent us that ever we should be  
 so blind as to Offend so good and gracious a God as  
 thou art, grant **Lord** that we may have an inward

perfect hatred, let it be most vile in our eyes, grant  
 Lord that we may put the knife of mortification to  
 the throat of our beloved Lust, grant that we may  
 learn to cut off our right hand sins, and pluck out  
 our right eye sins. O that thou wouldst be pleased to  
 give us a new Nature, and make holynesse be Natu-  
 ral to us, even as sin has been Natural to us, mollify  
 we beseech thee, our hard hearts, and write thy laws  
 upon them, change, we beseech thee, our natures and  
 renew our Wills, & constrain them to thy holy and  
 heavenly will, & grant us the guidance and assistance  
 of thy holy Spirit, that we may yield hearty and sin-  
 cere obedience to thy will, let us not any longer allow  
 our selfe & in the commission of any known sin, nor  
 in the omission of any known duty, and grant that  
 we may henceforth so fight against sin, & resist all  
 temptations of the Devil, the flesh, and the world  
 that sin more & more dying & delaying in us, grace &  
 holiness, may more and more, grow, and increase  
 in us, that going on from one degree of grace to ano-  
 ther grace at last may be perfect & compleated in glory.  
 And Lord we humbly pray thee that thou wouldst  
 look with an eye of pity and compassion upon this  
 sinful Nation unto which we belong, we must con-  
 fess that we have been a disobedient and gain saying  
 people, thy mercys would neither win us, nor yet  
 thy Judgment awaken us, nor none of thy Acts of  
 Providence would any ways work upon us, but we  
 have gone on obstinately in our Rebellion against  
 thee, so that thou mightst long & re this. & have  
 justly delivered us up as a prey to our Enemies, and  
 seeing thou hast prepared us, turn us we beseech  
 thee

thee from the evil of our ways, that thou mayst turn  
 away from the fierceness of thy wrath that we pe-  
 rish not, sit and prepare us for mercy, and then be-  
 stow them on thus Bless us beseech thee the Kings  
 Majesty both at home and abroad, give him Victory  
 and Success over all his Enemies, bring to naught  
 we beseech thee those Plots and Conspiracies, which  
 are contrived against him, bless him in his Royall  
 Consort Queen Mary, make them both eminent in-  
 struments of thy honour and glory, and the good of  
 thy Church, give them we pray thee a long and pro-  
 sperous Reign over us here on earth, and at last to  
 Crown them with Everlasting Glory in the life to  
 come. Consider, we beseech thee all such as suffer  
 any kind of affliction, whether of Body or Mind,  
 sanctify, we beseech thee, afflictions unto them, that  
 they may work for them a far more exceeding and e-  
 ternal work of Glory. And as thou hast hitherto  
 preserved us from our Infancy unto this present  
 day and hour, so we beseech thee continue thy care  
 over us, watch over us by thy divine providence, and  
 command thy holy Angels to pitch their tents round  
 about us for our Defence and Safety, bless us, we  
 beseech thee, both in our going out and coming  
 in, both in our lying down and rising up, that whe-  
 ther we sleep or wake, live or dye, we may be alway  
 thine, and Lord we pray thee make us so wise as  
 that we may know and consider in this our day of Af-  
 fliction, those things which concern our everlasting  
 peace, before we are hid from our eyes, O let it  
 be enough and too much that we have spent so much  
 of our time in gratifying the flesh, in living to our

24.)  
selves, and in serving of sin and Satan, and grant  
that we may spend the remainder of our day in thy  
Service, in working out our Salvation, and labour-  
ing by all diligence to make sure of Everlasting life,  
and grant that we may live every day as if it were  
our last day, and so Order our thoughts, words and  
actions, so that we may give up our accounts at last  
with joy, and inherit everlasting life, these blessings  
and what ever else thou knowest requisite and ne-  
cessary for us, we humbly beg and crave at thy hands  
upon the account, and through the merits of Jesus  
Christ our Lord and only Saviour, in whose name  
and words we further call upon thee, as he himself  
hath taught us, saying, Our Father, &c.



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FINIS.

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